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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/468,639	12/22/1999	TOYOSHI KAWADA	1081.1084/JD	3873

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EXAMINER

LIANG, REGINA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/468,639

Applicant(s)

KAWADA ET AL.

Examiner

Regina Liang

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-14, 16-24 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 3-14, 16-24, 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1, 3-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Andoh et al (US. PAT. NO. 4,044,349 hereinafter Andoh).

Figs. 1, 2 of Andoh discloses a plasma display panel device having first and second electrodes (X and Y electrodes) provided apart from one another and a ground power source, and performing display by generating a discharge between the first and second electrodes, the plasma display panel device comprising a drive circuit (driver 112) applying a drive voltage pulse between the first and second electrodes, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a first drive voltage between the first and second electrodes and when completing the drive voltage pulse, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a second drive voltage between the first and electrodes (see Fig. 4 and col. 5, line 53 to col. 6, line 46). Andoh also discloses the drive circuit that changes the first and second electrodes from a state of being connected to a first or/and second power sources different from the ground power source to a state of being connected to a second or/and third or/and fourth power sources different from the ground power source so as to apply a drive voltage between the first and second electrodes when a drive voltage pulse is to be applied between the first and second electrodes.

3. Claims 1, 3-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuma (US. PAT. NO. 4,384,287).

Sakuma discloses a plasma display panel device having first and second electrodes (301, 302) provided apart from one another and a ground power source, and performing display by generating a discharge between the first and second electrodes, the plasma display panel device comprising a drive circuit (Fig. 6) applying a drive voltage pulse between the first and second electrodes, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a first drive voltage between the first and second electrodes and when completing the drive voltage pulse, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a second drive voltage between the first and electrodes (see Figs. 6-12 and col. 5, lines 14-45, col. 7, line 11 to col. 8, line 20). Sakuma also discloses the drive circuit that changes the first and second electrodes from a state of being connected to a first or/and second power sources different from the ground power source to a state of being connected to a second or/and third or/and fourth power sources different from the ground power source so as to apply a drive voltage between the first and second electrodes when a drive voltage pulse is to be applied between the first and second electrodes.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 9/30/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' remarks regarding the Andoh and Sakuma on pages 6-7 are not persuasive. Again, as shown in Figs. 4A-4D, a driving circuit applies a "+" and a "-" voltages to the X and Y electrodes which reads on a drive circuit applying a drive voltage pulse between the first and second electrodes, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a first drive voltage between the first and second electrodes and when completing the drive voltage pulse, the drive circuit connects the first and second electrodes to power sources that are different from the ground power source so as to apply a second drive voltage between the first and electrodes as claimed. Fig. 3 of Andoh clearly shows the reference level is not at ground level, for example, see Figs. 4C and 4D, the reference level for X and Y electrodes are V_s which has voltage source as indicated in Fig. 3. Applicants' remarks are not persuasive as Andoh clearly shows the reference voltage is above ground level and applicant is reading additional limitations into Andoh. In Andoh Figs. 3, 4A, 4B, the '+ $V_{w/2}$ ' and '- $V_{w/2}$ ' are merely reference sign indicating the driving voltages are above and below the reference voltage ' V_{xw} ' by the same amount and not at ground level as erroneously alleged by applicant. Furthermore, applicant is reading limitations into the claims, the claims only require the voltages be different than the ground level and nothing more.

Sakuma also teaches limitation as claimed, see the rejection above.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Regina Liang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4719. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9AM to 5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe, can be reached on (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

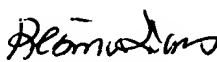
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Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


REGINA LIANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2674

RL